



KOREAN AMERICAN COALITION
Los Angeles

4.29 Center Essay Contest

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

The L.A. Riots of 1992 were turbulent times for Los Angeles. The need became apparent for LA residents to more deeply engage each other and local government in conversation that promotes understanding across ethnic, cultural, and economic differences. As a response to the 1992 LA Riots, the Korean American Coalition worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to found the **4.29 Dispute Resolution Center**. The name of the 4.29 Center is based on the Korean term for "April 29," or "Saigu," the day the Riots broke out. The center strives to provide cost-effective, efficient, and culturally appropriate means of resolving disputes. Special focus is placed on inter-ethnic, inter-cultural conflict resolution among the diverse ethnic populations of Los Angeles County.

Today, Korean American community members are a great deal more civically empowered, having forged close relationships with local government officials, and created and maintained a strong relationship with the Los Angeles Police Department. There have also been numerous efforts in the last 20 years to increase interethnic partnership among the various ethnic communities, particularly the African American, Jewish and Latino communities.

With this essay contest, KAC offers an opportunity for a generation of young Angelenos to earn cash scholarships while gaining deeper insight on an event in contemporary history that shaped LA's communities. This is also a chance for students to learn how their community fits into the racially diverse richness that is Los Angeles.

Scholarships totaling \$10,000

Korean American Coalition

Los Angeles Office

3540 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 911

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Phone: 213-365-5999 ext. 401

Email: esther@kacla.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 15, 2012

Essays due

April 25, 2012

RSVP for Awards
Reception due

April 29, 2012

Awards reception
1-4PM

4.29 Center Essay Contest: DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

PROMPT: Share a story of a time when diversity became a benefit, or was helpful to you in some way. Write about something important you learned from a person who is not like you. This person can come from a different income level, age, ethnicity, and/or neighborhood. Try to focus on big differences—this person may seem like you in many ways, but uphold different political or social beliefs, speak a different language at home, practice different cultural holidays, or follow a different religion. How does the lesson you learned demonstrate the theme, “Diversity is our strength”?

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WHO CAN ENTER

- **Grades 7 - 12:** Student must attend school in the County of Los Angeles.
- **Undergraduate Student:** Student must be currently registered as an undergraduate at a college or university in the United States.
- **Limited English Proficient (Grade 7 - 12):** Student must be currently registered at a school in the County of Los Angeles.
- *Those who win an award, but cannot attend the Awards Reception, will receive 50% of their scholarship prize amount.*

CONTEST RULES

- The essay must be submitted **via email to <esther@kacla.org>** by no later than **11:59 pm on April 15, 2012.**
- **WORD COUNT:** 500 - 1000 words
- Essays must be in English.
- Times New Roman font, 12 font size, double-spaced, Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx)
- A cover page with your full name, essay title, grade level, school name, and the date of submission.
- Any quotes or references to scholarly journals or articles must be accompanied by endnotes in MLA format.
- **IDENTIFICATION:** Photocopy/scan of current student ID card must be included in email. ESL students, please include one of the following: a recent transcript or class schedule to verify enrollment in an ESL class, or a letter from a school counselor verifying less than five years residence in the United States.
- Plagiarism is not tolerated, and will lead to automatic disqualification from the contest.
- All contestants are encouraged to attend the Awards Reception. **Scholarship prizes will only be paid in full to students who are in attendance on April 29, 2012.** Contestants who win an award, but do not attend the Awards Reception, will receive only 50% of their scholarship prize amount. At the reception, the grand prize winner may be asked to read the winning essay aloud.
- A submission confirmation email will be sent no later than two (2) business days following submission. In the week of April 15-23, contestants will be emailed with details regarding the Awards Reception.

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DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

JUDGING CATEGORIES

Essays will be judged in **five (5) categories**:

- Grades 7 & 8,
- Grades 9 & 10,
- Grades 11 & 12,
- Undergraduate College Student, and
- Limited English Proficient.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges award points based on the below criteria, and the essays with the highest points win. The overall highest point scorer will be awarded the grand prize.

- **FORM (20 points)**
 1. Grammar (10pts): Essay has been proofread for spelling, syntax, punctuation, etc.
 2. Organization (10pts): Sequence of ideas from one paragraph to the next is clear and logical.
- **CONTENT (60 points)**
 1. Main Ideas (30pts): Theme of contest is clearly addressed.
 2. Supporting Ideas (30pts): Main ideas are thoroughly discussed and supported with relevant details.
- **IMPRESSIONS (20 points)**
 1. Prognosis (10pts): Essay highlights the essence of the contest theme.
 2. Personal Reaction (10pts): How much did each judge enjoy your essay?

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 100

AWARDS

In *each of the five categories* (Grades 7 & 8, Grades 9 & 10, Grades 11 & 12, Current Undergrads, and Limited English Proficient), judges will award multiple contestants with cash scholarships ranging from \$100, \$200, \$300, to \$500, for a total of \$10,000 awarded. The Grand Prize of \$1,000 can be won by a contestant in any category. The Grand Prize winner will **NOT** be eligible to receive an award in their category in addition to the Grand Prize.

- Honorable Mention: \$100
- Distinction: \$200
- Excellence: \$300
- Outstanding: \$500
- Grand Prize: \$1,000

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